

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for identifying individuals at risk of developing osteoporosis comprising assessing the genotype of tumor necrosis factor alpha 2 receptor gene in a sample  
5 of DNA from an individual.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the genotype comprising a polymorphism at nucleotides 593, 598, and 620 in exon 10 of tumor necrosis factor alpha 2 receptor gene (SEQ ID NO:1) is indicative of the individual being at risk  
10 for developing osteoporosis.

3. A kit for identifying individuals at risk of developing osteoporosis comprising a means for assessing the genotype of tumor necrosis factor alpha 2 receptor gene in an individual.

15 4. The kit of claim 3 wherein the means detects polymorphisms at nucleotides 593, 598 and 620 in exon 10 of tumor necrosis factor alpha 2 receptor gene (SEQ ID NO:1) which are indicative of the individual being at risk for developing osteoporosis.

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